

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO EC COLLECTIVE
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AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2236

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARAMANLIS), EEC, NATO, DA, GR, CY, TU
SUBJ: MORE ON CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO COPENHAGEN, MARCH 30-31

REF : COPENHAGEN 2130

SUMMARY: CARAMANLIS' VISIT HERE WAS PART OF THE SECOND HALF OF HIS SWING THROUGH EC CAPITALS IN PURSUIT OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP. APPARENTLY NOT MUCH NEW WAS STAKED OUT. SOMEWHAT PARADOXICALLY, CARAMANLIS WANTED TO AVOID ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN GREEK EC MEMBERSHIP AND CYPRUS YET SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME WITH THE DANISH PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSING THE ISLAND. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS APRIL 4, MFA'S HANS GRUNNET, WHO HAD SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARAMANLIS VISIT, ADDED SOME DIMENSIONS TO THE REFTEL REPORT. GRUNNET SAID THAT HE COULD SUM UP THE VISIT IN THE SAME WAY HE DID IN BRIEFING THE
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REPRESENTATIVES FROM EMBASSIES OF THE NINE HERE: NO NEW POSITIONS ON ANY QUESTIONS WERE STAKED OUT BY EITHER CARAMANLIS OR THE DANES.

2. ACCORDING TO GRUNNET THE DANISH PRESS MISTAKENLY SPECULATED THAT CARMANLIS DISPLAYED "REGRET" OVER THE WITHDRAWAL OF GREECE FROM NATO MILITARY COOPERATION IN 1974. IN FACT, GRUNNET SAID, CARAMANLIS SIMPLY SAID THAT THE GREEKS HAD BEEN FORCED TO WITH-

DRAW FROM THIS COOPERATION IN 1974 AS A RESULT OF TURKISH INTERVENTION IN CYPRUS AND THAT THERE ARE CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH NATO AUTHORITIES ABOUT WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE RETURN OF GREECE. CARAMANLIS COMMENTED WITH NO APPARENT EMOTION, SAID GRUNNET, THAT IF THE TURKS CAN OUTLINE "REASONABLE PROPOSALS" ON CYPRUS, THEN HE "UNDERSTOOD" THAT AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY MIGHT BE RESUMED.

3. CARAMANLIS REPEATED THE PLEA OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT NOT TO LINK A "SOLUTION" IN CYPRUS WITH THE ENTRY OF GREECE INTO THE EC. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN REALLY MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS PLEA, GRUNNET ADDED, BUT DID SAY THAT THE NINE "HOPED" THAT CYPRUS "WOULD BE SOLVED" BEFORE GREECE'S ACTUAL ENTRY INTO MEMBERSHIP. DURING THEIR DISCUSSION ON CYPRUS, CARMANLIS ASKED JORGENSEN NOT TO MENTION THE ISLAND DURING HIS SUBSEQUENT PRESS INTERVIEW. IN THE EVENT, JORGENSEN DID MENTION THAT CYPRUS WAS DISCUSSED BUT HE MADE NO ALLUSION TO ANY LINK OF IT WITH THE ENTRY OF GREECE INTO THE EC.

4. GRUNNET WENT ON TO SAY THAT MOST OF THE DISCUSSION WITH THE GREEKS WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE CENTERED ON THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND ASPECTS OF GREEK EC MEMBERSHIP. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF CARAMANLIS' PREOCCUPATION WITH CYPRUS, MORE THAN HALF OF HIS TIME WITH PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN WAS DEVOTED TO A HISTORICAL EXPOSITION OF EVENTS THERE.

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5. POLCOUNS RECALLED REPORTS OF EC CONCERN OVER HOW TO BRING GREECE INTO THE POLITICAL COOPERATION PROCESS AND ASKED IF THIS CAME UP. GRUNNET REPLIED THAT IT DID IN A WAY. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN TOLD CARAMANLIS THAT WHEN DENMARK JOINED THE COMMON MARKET IN 1973 THE DANES HAD A VERY IMPERFECT UNDERSTANDING OF EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. NOW ONE OF DENMARK'S GOALS IS TO DEVELOP COMMON EC POLITICAL POSITIONS WHENEVER POSSIBLE INCLUDING, JORGENSEN SAID, ON CYPRUS. CARAMANLIS MADE NO RESPONSE.
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